Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the heading at page 2, before paragraph [0001].

Please delete paragraph [0001].

Please replace the heading at page 2, before paragraph [0002] with the following new headings:

~~Field of the Invention~~ BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

Please replace the heading at page 2, before paragraph [0003] with the following new headings:

~~Background of the Invention~~

2. Description of the Related Art

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] A rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press includes an inner carrier sleeve that has a circumferential and an axial direction. The carrier is expandable outwardly by an application of compressed air from the interior. The rubber cylinder sleeve also includes a single layer rubber ~~layer~~ covering having an inner surface disposed on the inner carrier sleeve and an outer surface for contacting a printing plate. The single rubber layer

includes a plurality of compressible elements for increasing the compressibility of the single rubber layer ~~and~~ and/or a plurality of filaments for increasing the stiffness of the single rubber layer. The compressible elements and the filaments are ~~disposed distal~~ spaced from the outer surface.

Please delete paragraph [0009].

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Fig. 2 is a view of a detail of the construction of the layer 3. Layer 3 is applied to the carrier sleeve 2 and, at a distance from the outer surface 7, contains compressible elements 8, for example in the form of air pockets ~~8a~~, and filaments 9 that influence the stiffness. The filaments 9 are aligned approximately in the circumferential direction of the rubber cylinder sleeve 1 and advantageously have a length of about 10 to 30 mm.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The layer 3 consists of a rubber material, such as is normally used for rubber blankets. Both the compressible elements 8, i.e. air pockets, and the filaments 9 are not uniformly distributed in the layer 3. In the radial direction, more compressible elements 8 are arranged towards the carrier sleeve 2, while the filaments 9 are arranged more densely towards the outer surface 7 in the radial direction. Thus, as shown in Fig. 3a, the stiffness S increases outwardly in the region of the thickness d of the layer ~~3 i.e. maximal thickness d~~, while the

relative compressibility K increases towards the carrier sleeve 2 ~~i.e. minimal thickness d~~. The stiffness S and the relative compressibility K are also indicated for the region of the thickness d in Fig. 1.